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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,978	11/29/2000	Takatoshi Tomooka	JP9-1999-0250USI(8728-455	8979

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Frank Chau, Esq.  
F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP  
Suite 501  
1900 Hempstead Turnpike  
East Meadow, NY 11554

EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2674

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/725,978

Applicant(s)

TOMOOKA ET AL.

Examiner

Abbas I Abdulsalam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see paper # 12, filed on 01/20/04, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-29 under U.S.C. (103) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Furuhashi et al. (USPN 6583771).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter et al. (USPN 5889945) in view Furuhashi et al. (USPN 6583771).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 11, 14, 18, 20 and 25, Porter teaches a host system, which transfers the necessary information to one or more end points allowing the endpoints display. Porter teaches an attendee bar (611) with respect to displaying an identifier (614). In addition Porter teaches an attendee bar record (702) with respect to a window identifier (707). However, Porter does not specifically teach a control signal output section and an image signal transfer section. Porter on the other hand teaches a signal generation device (337) for the purpose of outputting, and an interface unit (338) allowing the system (300) to communicate by sending and

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receiving video, audio as well as data signals. Porter also teaches the interface unit is processes other necessary control signals. See col. 5, lines 50-67, Fig 3, col. 4, lines 1-8, Fig 6b, and Fig 7.

In addition, Porter teaches a display device (332) used with a computer system that can be LCD or any other display mechanisms suitable for creating graphic images and alphanumeric characters. See col. 6, lines 1-5 and Fig 3. Porter further teaches applications being shared between multiple systems and being executed at all of the endpoints. See col. 4, lines 9-20.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the signal generation device (337) and system (300) communication for the purpose of outputting signals and exchanging signals respectively. One would have been motivated in view of Porter that the desired functions of a control signal output section and an image signal transfer section can be equivalently performed by the signal generation device (337) and system communication (300) respectively.

Porter has been described above. However, Porter does not teach the use of a panel ID and a display panel for displaying the portion of image space. Porter also does not teach the use of a window ID, and a window consisting of a unit for transferring an image signal. Furuhashi on the other hand teaches an ID setting circuit for setting an ID number for a liquid crystal panel (see the abstract & Fig. 17 (1725)). Furuhashi teaches as shown on Fig. 14, the multi-display interfaces (1201) as being connected to the liquid crystal panels (102-1, 102-2, 102-3, 102-4) and identified respectively by the ID numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) in order that the display data is selected and transferred though the display buses. See col. 14, lines 44-57 and Fig.13, and Fig. 14.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Porter's computer system (Fig. 3) to adapt Furuhashi's ID setting

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circuit, and liquid crystal panels (102) along with a transferring technique of display data as illustrated in Fig. 14. One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion in Furuhashi that the ID setting circuit, and liquid crystal panels (102) as configured in Fig. 14 equivalently provide the desired panel ID and Window ID. The use of ID setting circuit helps achieve an enlarged display as taught by Furuhashi et al.

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 10, Porter teaches a signal generation device, which may be, coupled with system I/O bus 331 along with other elements including display device (323). See Fig 3.

Regarding claim 3, Porter teaches four states of indicators of a panel one of which is a hidden state holding a space for the indicator. See col. See col. 11, lines 1-17 and Fig 6E.

Regarding claims 4-6, 9, 12, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 26-29, Furuhashi teaches an ID setting circuit for setting an ID number for a liquid crystal panel (see the abstract & Fig. 17 (1725)). Furuhashi teaches the multi-display interfaces (1201) as being connected to the liquid crystal panels (102-1, 102-2, 102-3, 102-4) and identified respectively by the ID numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) in order that the display data is selected and transferred through the display buses. See col. 14, lines 44-57 and Fig.13, and Fig. 14. Porter also teaches the use of menus that can be selected, and displaying the attendee bar and menu. See col. 11, lines 18-27.

Regarding claims 13 and 16, see Porter's Fig 3 (302, 303).

Regarding claim 17, Porter teaches the use of a memory controller (322) in connection with a display device (323).

Regarding claim 22, Porter teaches a display device (332) of various types including LCD. See col. 6, lines 1-5.

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Regarding claim 23, Porter teaches the use of application specific information, specific controls or commands in connection with the panels. See col. 3, lines 8-13.

### **Conclusion**

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered to applicant's disclosure.

The following arts are cited for further reference.

U.S. Pat. No. 6, 202,055 to Houvener et al.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Abbas Abdulsalam** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-8591**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard Hjerpe**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4709**.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314**

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 2600 customer Service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

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April 4, 2004



**XIAO WU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**